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Abstracts

Social and Economic Impacts of the Immigration and Nationality Act 287(g) on Local Businesses in Danbury, CT

Xiomara Condo

This study examines how the Immigration and Nationality Act 287(g), passed in October 2009, has affected the local economy of Danbury, CT. The purpose of this study is to raise public awareness about the recent phenomenon in the city of Danbury, and the effects of 287(g) on the local economy. Qualitative ethnographic research was conducted in order to measure the effects of the Immigration and Nationality Act 287(g) in Danbury. The instrument used for this study included a 10 question survey. Local business owners were interviewed to understand how the Immigration and Nationality Act 287(g) has affected their business and the local community. Local business owners are concerned about the way the local government is handling this matter because the Immigration and Nationality Act 287(g) has caused a significant decrease in revenue for many local business owners since the implementation of the law, in addition to creating a hostile environment for the immigrants in the city of Danbury. The results of this study indicate that the local economy of Danbury has been negatively affected since the Immigration and Nationality Act 287(g) was implemented, due to many immigrants leaving Danbury in fear of the Act.

Violent Media and Anti-Social Behavior

Michael Feda

The goal of this study was to examine the relationship between violent media such as video games, television, movies, and music, and anti-social behavior. To perform this study, a survey was administered to 87 students at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT. The findings of this study showed that there was no statistical significance in the relationship between violent media and anti-social behavior. However, some patterns in television and video game violence did emerge when looking at violence levels and time exposed to violent material. Movies and music were less associated with anti-social behavior.

The Tea Party Coalition: A Study of the New-Wave of Protests in the United States

Kevin Thomas McVerry Ruane

The goals of this field study on the Tea Party Movement are to define the main issues that people affiliated with Tea Parties are protesting and establish a clear and precise observation of individuals involved in Tea Party protests. For my Thesis, I conducted interviews with Tea Party organizers, affiliates, and supporters, and attended three Tea Party protests in different areas of Connecticut in order to analyze the various aspects of each demonstration. After my experiences with the Tea Party protests and the people involved, I have concluded that the Tea Party is a generally well-organized fiscally conservative grass-roots movement that aims to lower taxes, decrease spending and the national deficit, and decrease the size and influence of the Federal Government.

“Fit to Print”: A Study of Political Bias in Newspapers

Matt Ulman

This research is a quantitative analysis of political bias in newspapers. The study examined front-page articles from *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* during the 2008 Presidential Convention. The study examined total front page coverage, and analyzed individual articles taking into consideration word length, relation to the newspaper fold, and quotations. All data was collected and analyzed. The study produced some interesting qualitative findings, although none of the study's findings were found to be statistically significant.

Stimulated Society: Caffeine and the American Civilization

Jason Weber

The topic of caffeine and its relationship to American society was selected because the author wished to expose a commonplace aspect of daily life to interpretive analysis. Through historical analysis, the author attempts to trace how caffeine was used as a tool of power throughout history, and the similar ways in which it is used in modern society. A theoretical critique of caffeine's meaning and value for American society follows, in which the author attempts to show the ways in which everyday aspects of life can have profound meaning when viewed through the lens of a specific sociological theory.

Racism and Empathy in the Context of a Natural Disaster

Samantha B. Yamin

In this study on racism and empathy in the context of a natural disaster, I performed a quasi-experiment, administering a survey to a control group, and two experimental groups, isolating race as the independent variable and empathy as the dependant variable. A narrative was presented to respondents chronicling the experiences of a Hurricane Katrina survivor. Two tests of empathy were presented: one specific to the survivor and one of general empathy. In general, respondents displayed very high empathy, with variations based on gender and religious affiliation of respondents. Women scored particularly high in empathy, as did individuals who ascribe to a religious or spiritual construct.